



First 5 California Project Legacy Description

First 5 California's Vision reaffirms the hope of Proposition 10:

"All children in California enter school ready to achieve their greatest potential."
(2008 Strategic Plan)

Accomplishing this vision requires an ongoing commitment to ensure that children are born healthy, raised in nurturing homes, and ready for school. This commitment has been at the heart of the work of both First 5 California and First 5 county commissions in communities large and small across our state.

The work done over the past 10 years has helped countless youngsters grow towards their potential. This is our opportunity to learn from past efforts and do even more for our state's children in the next 10 years. This is where Project Legacy will contribute by pooling collective wisdom, lessons and research.

What is Project Legacy?

First 5 California's Project Legacy will help First 5 California create its "Roadmap to the Future" by establishing a distinctive set of programs for children 0 to 5 and their families: two to three Signature Programs and innovative Pilot Projects. Project Legacy will leverage the knowledge of a broad and diverse array of stakeholders (Project Legacy Workgroup or Workgroup) to develop criteria for these future programs and improve the way we do business. First 5 California envisions applying the criteria to guide future funding decisions.

Why Now?

It has been 10 years since the passage of Proposition 10. It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate our successes as well as learn from the past. It is time to look ahead and create our "Roadmap to the Future."

First 5 California currently faces two challenges that are the impetus for Project Legacy:

- Declining revenues. Proposition 10 funds, tied to the Tobacco Tax, are declining. Although that decline signals the hopeful trend of less tobacco use, it also signals a future deficit if First 5 California continues to fund programs at current levels.
- Desire to Strengthen Continuous Quality Improvement: Instead of evaluating programs individually, First 5 California seeks to develop programs that will allow us to implement a comprehensive evaluation approach to continually improve service delivery and better demonstrate the outcomes of its collective efforts.



What are the Impacts of these Challenges?

Taken together, these challenges have two significant impacts:

1. In the aggregate, funding for current First 5 California programs will diminish and programs in their current configuration will likely need to be discontinued.
2. The First 5 California Commission will set clear funding priorities for future Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.

What will Happen to the Programs Currently Funded by First 5 California?

Project Legacy's criteria may be consistent with aspects or components of current programs and First 5 California may incorporate some of those components into future Signature Programs or Pilot Projects. No existing First 5 California program can continue in its current configuration. That is why the Legacy Workgroup's efforts in identifying the criteria are so critical to the success of Project Legacy.

What are the Areas of Emphasis for the Signature Programs and Pilot Projects?

The Signature Programs and Pilot Projects should contribute to tobacco cessation and an integrated system of care for children and their families focused on improving:

- Family Functioning
- Child Development
- Child Health

What Assumptions Will Guide the Work of Project Legacy?

Project Legacy will reflect First 5 California's Mission and Guiding Principles, as established by the Commission in September, 2007 (See Attachment A). Each of Project Legacy's Signature Programs and Pilot Projects will also:

1. Address the specific needs of California children and their families to close the school readiness gap.
2. Emphasize comprehensive, collaborative and integrated programs and services.
3. Focus on evidence-based and promising practices.
4. Leverage lessons learned from past First 5 California programs.
5. Promote collaboration with public and private partners building on existing systems to leverage resources and support.
6. Include an evaluation component that assesses outcomes to support sustainability.



7. Include a continual program improvement process.
8. Maximize impact to leverage public support of policy development.
9. Promote systemic change.

How will Project Legacy be Organized?

Project Legacy will leverage the knowledge and talents of the First 5 California Commission, its staff, and the Legacy Workgroup. The attached Roadmap provides a step-by-step outline of this work (see Attachment B). The Attachment is summarized in the following paragraphs:

The First 5 California Commission will set the overall policy direction for Project Legacy and the Legacy Workgroup, approve the criteria for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects, and approve funding to support the resulting initiatives.

The Legacy Workgroup will convene to identify criteria for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects. Professionals from the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University at Sacramento will facilitate the Workgroup. These professionals have extensive experience in bringing diverse groups to consensus. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft criteria at workshops in Northern, Central and Southern California. The Workgroup will consider the public's input prior to finalizing its criteria recommendations. First 5 California staff will submit the Workgroup's recommendations to the First 5 California Commission for its consideration and potential adoption.

First 5 California staff will use the criteria, as adopted by the First 5 California Commission, to develop the detailed design for two to three Signature Programs as well as Pilot Projects. The Legacy Workgroup will be invited to review and comment on the draft designs. Staff will present detailed Signature Programs and Pilot Projects to the First 5 California Commission for funding.



Project Legacy Definitions

SIGNATURE PROGRAM

In the future and for the purposes of this project, a Signature Program is a long-term, evidence-based First 5 California sponsored program that allows First 5 California to support children ages 0 to 5 and their families so children can maximize their potential. In addition, a Signature Program allows First 5 California to achieve its mission.

PILOT PROJECT

In the future and for the purposes of this project, a Pilot Project is a limited-term, experimental First 5 California sponsored project designed to impact a specific target population through promising practices.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

An evidence-based practice is a service delivery process that repeatedly and consistently demonstrates desirable outcomes through application of scientific research methods. The scientific method and resulting outcomes should consider social and economic differences in study participants. Evidence-based practices are frequently referred to as “best practices.”

PROMISING PRACTICE

A promising practice is a service delivery process that demonstrates desirable outcomes. These practices may be too new to demonstrate repeated and/or consistent outcomes. This may include adaptations of evidence-based practices.

CRITERIA

Standards or guidelines used to make decisions about program design.



Attachment A

First 5 California Strategic Plan Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Adopted September 2007

Vision

All children in California enter school ready to achieve their greatest potential.

Mission

By 2012, be recognized as California's unequivocal voice for children 0 – 5 to ensure greater equity in their readiness for school.

Guiding Principles

Child Centered:

Focus all programs and activities on the needs of California's children.

Family focus:

Support families as children's primary caregivers and first teachers.

Diversity:

Ensure that families from all of California's diverse populations connect to services needed to succeed.

Public Support:

Build a foundation of support for a comprehensive, integrated and holistic early childhood development system.

Quality Standards:

Incorporate the highest quality, evidence-based standards when assessing program effectiveness.

Partnerships and Leveraging:

Promote collaboration with public and private partners, building on existing systems.



**Attachment B
Project Legacy Roadmap**

STEP	TASK
1*	Identify Project Legacy process This includes the discussion and First 5 California Commission adoption of the First 5 California Project Legacy Description and the Project Legacy Workgroup Membership Categories.
2	Develop educational materials for Legacy Workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs Assessment Report, identifying gaps in services where First 5 California can have the biggest impact. Initial lessons learned from the past 10 years of First 5 California programs.
3	Organize Legacy Workgroup
4	Convene Workgroup to identify criteria for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects Before finalizing the criteria, the Legacy Workgroup will consider public comment obtained from workshops in Northern, Central and Southern California.
5*	Present Signature Program and Pilot Project criteria recommendations to First 5 California Commission
6	Apply criteria to develop Signature Programs and Pilot Projects
7*	Present detailed Signature Programs and Pilot Projects to First 5 California Commission for funding
8	Release Funding for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects
9	Monitor and evaluate Signature Programs and Pilot Projects to glean lessons learned

*Indicates need for First 5 California Commission approval.